

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A suspension comprising a multilayered plate member ~~formed by~~ comprising at least three continuous layers laminated together and overlapping one another over an entire length portion of said multilayered plate member, a modulus of elasticity of neighbor layers of said at least three continuous layers being different from each other, both side edges of only a part of the layers of said multilayered plate member within a stiffness required region ~~being~~ bent to form ribs, said multilayered plate member being pivotally securable to an assembly carriage.

Claim 2 (Original): The suspension as claimed in claim 1, wherein both side edges of only a surface layer of said multilayered plate member within a stiffness required region are bent to form ribs.

Claim 3 (Original): The suspension as claimed in claim 1, wherein both side edges of only a surface layer and its neighbor layer of said multilayered plate member within a stiffness required region are bent to form ribs.

Claim 4 (Original): The suspension as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one layer of said multilayered plate member has a plane shape different from that of the other layer of said multilayered plate member.

Claim 5 (Original): The suspension as claimed in claim 1, wherein said multilayered plate member comprises a first thin metal plate layer, a resin layer laminated on said first thin metal plate layer, and a second thin metal plate layer laminated on said resin layer.

Claim 6 (Original): The suspension as claimed in claim 1, wherein said multilayered plate member comprises a first thin metal plate layer, a second thin metal plate layer laminated on said first thin metal plate layer and provided with an elasticity coefficient different from that of said first thin metal plate layer, and a third thin metal plate layer laminated on said second thin metal plate layer and provided with an elasticity coefficient different from that of said second thin metal plate layer.

Claim 7 (Original): The suspension as claimed in claim 1, wherein said multilayered plate member comprises a first thin metal plate layer, a first resin layer laminated on said first thin metal plate layer, a second thin metal plate layer laminated on said first resin layer, a second resin layer laminated on said second thin metal plate layer, and a third thin metal plate layer laminated on said second resin layer.

Claim 8 (Original): The suspension as claimed in claim 1, wherein said multilayered plate member comprises a first thin metal plate layer, a second thin metal plate layer laminated on said first thin metal plate layer and provided with an elasticity coefficient different from that of said first thin metal plate layer, a third thin metal plate layer laminated on said second thin metal plate layer and provided with an elasticity coefficient different from that of said second thin metal plate layer, a fourth thin metal plate layer laminated on said third thin metal plate layer and provided with an elasticity coefficient different from that of said third thin metal plate layer, and a fifth thin metal plate layer laminated on said fourth thin

metal plate layer and provided with an elasticity coefficient different from that of said fourth thin metal plate layer.

Claim 9-17 (Canceled)

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A head gimbal assembly comprising:

a suspension including a multilayered plate member ~~formed by~~ comprising at least three continuous layers laminated together and overlapping one another over an entire length portion of said multilayered plate member, a modulus of elasticity of neighbor layers of said at least three continuous layers being different from each other, both side edges of only a part of the layers of said multilayered plate member within a stiffness required region ~~being bent~~ to form ribs, said multilayered plate member being pivotally securable to an assembly carriage; and

a head slider with at least one head element, said head slider being mounted on said suspension.

Claim 19 (Original): The head gimbal assembly as claimed in claim 18, wherein both side edges of only a surface layer of said multilayered plate member within stiffness required region are bent to form ribs.

Claim 20 (Original): The head gimbal assembly as claimed in claim 18, wherein both side edges of only a surface layer and its neighbor layer of said multilayered plate member within stiffness required region are bent to form ribs.

Claim 21 (Original): The head gimbal assembly as claimed in claim 18, wherein said multilayered plate member comprises a first thin metal plate layer, a resin layer laminated on

said first thin metal plate layer, and a second thin metal plate layer laminated on said resin layer.

Claim 22-25 (Canceled)

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): A disk drive apparatus with at least one head gimbal assembly comprising:

a suspension including a multilayered plate member ~~formed by~~ comprising at least three continuous layers laminated together and overlapping one another over an entire length portion of said multilayered plate member, a modulus of elasticity of neighbor layers of said at least three continuous layers being different from each other, both side edges of only a part of the layers of said multilayered plate member within a stiffness required region ~~being bent~~ to form ribs, said multilayered plate member being pivotally securable to an assembly carriage; and

a head slider with at least one head element, said head slider being mounted on said suspension.

Claim 27 (Original): The disk drive apparatus as claimed in claim 26, wherein both side edges of only a surface layer of said multilayered plate member within a stiffness required region are bent to form ribs.

Claim 28 (Original): The disk drive apparatus as claimed in claim 26, wherein both side edges of only a surface layer and its neighbor layer of said multilayered plate member within a stiffness required region are bent to form ribs.

Claim 29 (Original): The disk drive apparatus as claimed in claim 26, wherein said multilayered plate member comprises a first thin metal plate layer, a resin layer laminated on said first thin metal plate layer, and a second thin metal plate layer laminated on said resin layer.

Claim 30-33 (Canceled)